

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00644 302232Z
ACTION ARA-14

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P R 302140Z JAN 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5480
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USCINCSO

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DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA SENT ACTIONN USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE
WASHDC P R 302135Z JAN 78 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--LOCAL REACTION TO THE JANUARY 27-30 VISIT OF
THE TEN MEMBERS OF CODEL CRANSTON HAS BEEN POSITIVE AND
UNSENSATIONAL. THE GROUP RECEIVED ITS SHARE OF FRONT PAGE
COVERAGE IN SPITE OF COMPETITION FROM RETURNING LIGHTWEIGHT
CHAMP DURAN. COVERAGE EITHER STRESSED THE POSITIVE, AS IN
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 00644 302232Z

THE JANUARY 30 LA ESTREALLA: "SEN. CRANSTON ASSURED: 'CONFIDENCE
IN PANAMANIAN CAPACITY TO OPERATE CANAL,' " OR SIMPLY REPORTED
THE MOVEMENTS OF THE GROUP WITH LITTLE HARD NEWS CONTENT.
NO MENTION WAS MADE IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF SEN. MOYNIHAN'S
COMPLAINT PICKED UP BY THE WIRE SERVICES SATURDAY THAT HE
OBJECTED BEING USED BY A "DICTATOR" IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2-ALL THREE SPANISH-LANGUAGE MORNING DAILIES JANUARY 30 CARRIED RELATIVELY ROUTINE LEAD EDITS ON TREATY. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TABLOID CRITICA POINTS OUT THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME OPPONENTS OF THE TREATIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES WHO "HAVE DENIED TO PANAMA ITS QUALITY OF PATRIOTISM--THE PUREST AND THE LEAST OFFICIAL (QUALITY)." IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, CONCLUDES CRITICA, BYRD AND BAKER SAY THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER, HOWEVER, "THE ONLY THING WE CAN AFFIRM IS THAT THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE FRIGHTENED AND WILL APPLY IF NECESSARY THE JUDGEMENT OF OMAR TORRIJOS: THERE IS NO COLONIALISM THAT LASTS 100 YEARS NOR NATION THAT COULD STAND IT."

3-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO IN ITS LEAD EDIT JANUARY 30 CROWD OVER THE RECEPTION GIVEN CODEL CRANSTON ON THEIR SATURDAY VISIT TO LOS SANTOS. ACCORDING TO CRITICA, "THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN LESS THAN EXCITED BY WHAT THEIR EYES SAW AND THEIR EARS HEARD ON THEIR VISIT TO THE REGION OF LOS SANTOS WHERE THE MENTAL STATE OF THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN POLARIZED BY THE COMING "CARNAVAL" CELEBRATION." WHAT THE SENATORS SAW, ADDS MATUTINO, WAS "A PEOPLE WHO WORK, WHO ENJOY THEMSELVES AND WHO EXERT THEMSELVES TO OFFER THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP WITHOUT RESERVATIONS IN A FRATERNAL GESTURE."

4-SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA EDITORIALIZED JANUARY 30 ON "THE OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS" OF SENATE TREATY OPPONENTS, WHO, ACCORDING TO LA ESTRELLA, KNOW THEY DON'T HAVE THE VOTE TO DEFEAT THE TREATIES BUT WILL TRY TO DELAY A CONCLUSIVE VOTE. LA ESTRELLA UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 00644 302232Z

BEGINS: "ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT EVEN A LITTLE LESS SURE THAT THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE SENATE, WE STILL MUST CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY, MORE OR LESS REMOTE, THAT THE CLOSED AND OBSTINATELY INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE OF SOME AMERICAN SENATORS MIGHT CAUSE DELAYS WITH THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE OBJECTIVE OF IMPEDING SENATORIAL APPROVAL; AN APPROVAL WHICH IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED.
"

5-LA ESTRELLA CONCLUDES: "WE ALREADY KNOW THAT ONE OF THE SENATORS THAT CAME TO PANAMA MADE OBSERVATIONS WHICH POINT TOWARD DELAY IN WARNING THAT THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR THE SENATE, THAT THE COMING YEAR WILL BRING PREPARATIONS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, AND ON AND ON. BUT THAT IS A PERPETUAL CHAIN AND THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO THE THESIS OF SAID SENATORS IT WOULD BE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A DATE WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED PROPITIOUS FOR THE SENATE TO DEAL WITH THE TREATIES. FOR THAT REASON WE SUPPOSE THAT THE DILATORY TACTICS WILL BE REJECTED AND THAT THE SENATE WILL DECIDE SOON, BEFORE PANAMANIAN PATIENCE CHANGES TO DESPERATION." ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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